

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator



Instructions

The objective of this tool is to provide field supervisors with information to proactively engage workers and discuss safety related concerns that they may encounter. Safety discussions should not be limited to the subject above and should pertain to the activities that workers will be involved in that may have the potential for safety related exposures.

Case Day:

April 21, 2000

Accident Type:

Work Zone Accident - Set Up/Tear Down

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), California Code of Regulations, Vol. 9, Title 8, Sections 1597, 1598, 1599, ATSSA Standards for Work Zone Traffic Control

Case:

A 27 year-old general laborer died when a speeding vehicle struck him as he and his co-workers picked up lane closures in an interstate highway work zone after night operations had concluded.

Accident Detail:

The worker was part of a crew picking up traffic control devices after their night shift had ended. The work zone was approximately six miles long, consisting of three lanes closed to traffic by means of orange cones with retro-reflective sleeves and barricades with illuminated beacons and signboards.

The victim and two coworkers used a one-ton flatbed traffic control truck equipped with flashing lights, an arrow board, and man-basket attached to the rear of the bed. The victim and co-workers were all wearing orange vests with retro-reflective markings.

A co-worker backed up the truck at approximately two to three miles per hour while parallel to the traffic cones in the lane. The victim and another co-worker alternated standing in the man-basket to pick up cones and shoveling up old reflective markers.

When backing up, the driver of the truck noticed headlights coming at him in his left rear view mirror. When the driver looked in the right rear view mirror and did not see the headlights, he stopped the truck, honked his horn, and yelled the victim's name as loud as he could to warn him. The vehicle struck the rear of the truck in which the victim was working, ejecting him onto the interstate highway.

Witnesses to the incident stated the vehicle that struck the rear of the traffic control truck was traveling at speeds in excess of 70 mph, swerving erratically and hitting traffic cones for more than two miles before the impact took place.

